

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hikomichi KOMORI et al

Appln. No.:

Filed: HEREWITH

For: ELASTIC SHAFT COUPLING AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING  
COUPLING ELEMENT

\* \* \*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified  
patent application as indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1           3. (Amended) An elastic shaft coupling according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the outer diameter of the stopper portion on  
3 said hollow shaft member side is formed smaller than the outer  
4 diameter of the stopper portion on said joint member side.

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1           4. (Amended) An elastic shaft coupling according to  
2 claim 1, wherein the stopper portions on said joint member  
3 side are brought into contact with the stopper portions on  
4 said hollow shaft member side from the center thereof in  
5 accordance with said relative rotation.

Please add the following claims:

1           6. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 2,  
2 wherein the outer diameter of the stopper portion on said  
3 hollow shaft member side is formed smaller than the outer  
4 diameter of the stopper portion on said joint member side.

1           7. (New) An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 2,  
2 wherein the stopper portions on said joint member side are  
3 brought into contact with the stopper portions on said hollow  
4 shaft member side from the center thereof in accordance with  
5 said relative rotation.

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate the multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the fee for such claims. Claims 6-7 presented herein correspond to the dependencies eliminated from the original claims.

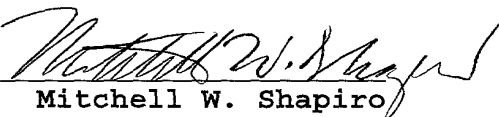
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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By:

  
Mitchell W. Shapiro  
Reg. No. 31,568

July 16, 2001

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMSWHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An elastic shaft coupling having a coupling element which is formed by interposing between a joint member and a hollow shaft member an elastic member for flexing and deforming upon a relative rotation between these members and forming stopper portions for restricting the relative rotation within a predetermined amount respectively on the joint member and the hollow shaft member, characterized in that:

the stopper portions on the hollow shaft member side are formed by plastically processing the end portion of the material of the hollow shaft member into a flange shape.

2. An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 1, wherein the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member side are provided with ribs for reinforcement.

3. An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the outer diameter of the stopper portion on said hollow shaft member side is formed smaller than the outer diameter of the stopper portion on said joint member side.

4. An elastic shaft coupling according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the stopper portions on said joint

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member side are brought into contact with the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member side from the center thereof in accordance with said relative rotation.

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5. A method of manufacturing a coupling element which is formed by interposing between a joint member and a hollow shaft member an elastic member for flexing and deforming upon a relative rotation between these members and forming stopper portions for restricting the relative rotation within a predetermined amount respectively on the joint member and the hollow shaft member, comprising the step of:

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forming each of the stopper portions on said hollow shaft member side into the shape of a flange while applying a pressing force in the axial direction onto said hollow shaft member.

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